

WINDS-Caribe Newsletter

Fostering EU-Caribbean ICT research cooperation

Issue 1, July/August 2008

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Editorial

Welcome to the first issue of the **WINDS-Caribe Newsletter "Fostering EU-Caribbean ICT research cooperation"**, produced by the WINDS-Caribe project with the support of the European Commission, presenting reflections, news and events related to Europe-Caribbean cooperation in ICT research.

The aim of the [WINDS-Caribe project](#) is to foster cooperation between Europe and the Caribbean in all ICT research fields, focusing on the Seventh Framework Programme of the European Union, one of the main opportunities and tools to turn our cooperation effort into actual results. The project exists to help interested Caribbean organizations (research centres, universities, companies and SMEs) to promote their R&D capabilities; to support them in defining and fine-tuning project ideas; and to help build international project consortia to support all ICT research project endeavours.

Every three months WINDS-Caribe will produce a newsletter, to help the circulation of key information across the European and Caribbean regions. If you want to contribute to this newsletter by sending us your news, events and research ideas, please do so by writing to communication@winds-lac.eu

Enjoy your reading,
The WINDS-Caribe team

WINDS-Caribe project

The WINDS-Caribe project, funded by the European Commission's ICT Programme under the 7th Research Framework Programme (FP7), aims at contributing to building a cohesive Information Society in the Caribbean region by deepening strategic cooperation between Europe and the Caribbean in ICT research; it will help to involve Caribbean actors in a multinational community that will involve all the relevant stakeholders (researchers, policy makers, users) that deal with ICT research and that will define the key issues on which cooperation should focus through an open consultation process.

The project will work along the following activities:

1. Identification and mapping of relevant actors from the Caribbean region to be involved in EU-funded research, and promotion of their profiles among EU researchers through a specific Caribbean ICT research database;
2. Identification of issues of common benefit and interest on which EU-Caribbean collaboration could focus, in order to shape the collaboration agenda coherently both with the Caribbean region needs and priorities and with the European funding schemes;
3. Promotion of cooperation possibilities and of results of European ICT research that can be adapted and transferred to a number of research, policy and practice actors in the Caribbean region;
4. Direct support to cooperation through a web-based collaborative environment for research, industry and government administrators and civil society, where project ideas can be discussed and developed;
5. Establishment, through an open consultation mechanism, of a roadmap for future technology research in a EU-Caribbean long-term collaboration perspective.

The project complements an ongoing project named WINDS Latin America, which runs the same activities focusing on the Latin American region, and wants to extend to the Caribbean region the impact of WINDS-LA, by adapting all the existing services to the Caribbean needs and state of the art.

The Project partners are the MENON Network (Belgium), the Universidad Polit cnica de Catalunya (Spain), the Fundaci n Redes y Desarrollo (Dominican Republic), the Universidad Iberoamericana (Dominican Republic), the University of West Indies – CARIMAC (Jamaica) and the Asociaci n Rivelu (Martinique).

Get involved in WINDS-Caribe!

To engage with the project you just have to register in the www.winds-lac.eu website, and you will be able to:

- include your institution and projects profiles in the WINDS-Caribe database, in order to be visible among European researchers who are looking for partners in specific research fields;
- get fresh and updated information on European funding possibility for ICT research, in domains like ICT for learning, ICT for health, software engineering, mobile computing, and many more;
- participate in the collaborative clusters section, working in cooperation with researchers from the Caribbean and from Europe on specific project ideas (available soon);
- access the WINDS Helpdesk, to ask for information on the Seventh Framework Programme, ways to access, working mechanisms, future calls, etc.
- receive the WINDS-Caribe Newsletter, a bulletin presenting news, events and interesting data on EU-Caribbean ICT research cooperation.

WINDS-Caribe wants to be an open and flexible service platform, and is open to ideas and suggestion, if you want to get in touch with the project team just write to communication@winds-lac.eu.

The Seventh Framework Programme for RTD (FP7): the main instrument for European research is open to Caribbean actors in all its components.

The *Seventh Framework Programme* for research and technological development (FP7) is the European Union's main instrument for funding research in Europe. FP7, which applies to the years 2007-2013, is the natural successor to the *Sixth Framework Programme* (FP6), and is the result of years of consultation with the scientific community, research and policy making institutions, and other interested parties.



The Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) includes several specific programmes:

- **Cooperation** – fostering collaboration between industry and academia to gain leadership in key technology areas.
- **Ideas** – supporting basic research at the scientific frontiers (implemented by the

- European Research Council).
- **People** – supporting mobility and career development for researchers both within and outside Europe.
- **Capacities** – helping develop the capacities that Europe needs to be a thriving knowledgebased economy.
- **Nuclear research (Euratom programme)** – developing Europe’s nuclear fission and fusion capabilities.

To get information on FP7, to browse past and present projects, and to access a full range of support services, please visit **CORDIS**: www.cordis.europa.eu/fp7 or use the **FP7 Helpdesk**: www.ec.europa.eu/research/enquiries

In FP7 the **international dimension** is no longer confined to a specific scientific and technological cooperation programme but is now inherent in all European Community research activities. This international policy has three objectives:

- To support European competitiveness through strategic partnerships with third countries in selected fields of science and by engaging the best third country scientists to work in and with Europe.
- To enhance the production of knowledge and scientific excellence by enabling European universities, research institutions and firms to establish contact with their partners in third countries, thereby facilitating access to research environments outside Europe and promoting synergies on a global scale.
- To address specific problems that third countries face or that have a global character, on the basis of mutual interest and mutual benefit. Differently from previous Framework Programmes, in FP7 all research areas as well as all Calls for Proposals are open to participation of extra-European partners, who can access FP7 with the same rights and obligations of EU participants.

FP7 News and open Calls for proposals

The FP7 works through biannual Work Programmes, which are documents that set the priorities, objectives and calls schedules for a two-year period. The Work Programme for the period 2009-2010 will be announced in November 2008, and the next Calls for Proposals are expected in the same period.

To be kept updated on the next FP7 steps, just register in the www.winds-lac.eu

website and you will get all fresh news on EU ICT research cooperation possibilities. Open calls for proposals at the moment are:

- Future and emerging Technologies Open scheme, deadline 20 January 2009
- ARTEMIS Call 2008, Deadline 3 September 2008
- ENIAC Joint Undertaking Call 2008, Deadline 3 September 2008
- ICT based solutions for Prevention and Management of Chronic Conditions of Elderly People, Deadline 21 August 2008

More information and all the documentation related to these calls are available [at the CORDIS website.](#)

ICT Lyon 2008: join the Caribbean crew in Lyon!

On the 25-27 November 2008, approximately 4,000 -5,000 ICT research actors from all over the world are expected to attend the **ICT-Lyon 2008 Event**, organised by the Directorate General Information Society and Media of the European Commission. This biennial ICT Event (formerly called the "IST Event") is the most important forum for discussing research and public policy in information and communication technologies at European level. The Event brings together researchers and innovators, policy and business decision-makers working in the field of digital technologies.

The ICT Event:

- Presents Europe's future priorities for research funding in the ICT area
- Examines crucial issues of public policy for stimulating innovation through ICT development and uptake
- Creates opportunities to establish research and business partnerships and simply keep up to date in what is happening in various ICT research fields.

The WINDS-Caribe project is facilitating the participation and the promotion of Caribbean research stakeholders in and around the ICT 2008 Lyon Conference: During the ICT event, the Caribbean delegates in Lyon will be welcomed in a dedicated **stand** called "**Latin America ICT Gateway**" that will be the point of reference for all Lyon participants willing to have information on Latin American and Caribbean ICT competencies & capacities and willing contacting potential project partners present there.

On the 26 of November, a dedicated **Networking Session** will be organised to facilitate the contacts and enhance even more the networking activities between Latin American and Caribbean partners and the European counterpart. The Networking Session will be structured as a showcase of excellencies for the most relevant ICT themes and as a place for encounters

under separate headings in the room. After the ICT event ends, on the 28th November, a “**Project Concept Note day**” will be organised in Lyon as a follow-up event to set up concrete project ideas with the members of the Latin American and Caribbean delegations, immediately the day after the end of the ICT event, so to involve attendees of the ICT event and give a continuation to the meetings and networking activities executed.

You are invited to join the Caribbean delegation in Lyon, if you are interested please contact Fabio Nascimbeni, fabio.nascimbeni@menon.org.

In focus: @CP-ICT Call for proposals

The European Commission is financing a €20 million "ACP-Information and Communication Technologies [@CP-ICT] Programme" from its 9th European Development Fund (EDF) out of which €9.5 million will be made available through call for proposals. The call is targeted to countries belonging to the [ACP - African Caribbean Pacific group](#), and is open to local government organisations, research actors and other stakeholders.

The objective of the Call is poverty reduction and in particular to address intra-ACP needs in terms of ICT. It is about capacity building programme that can be carried out at continental, regional, sub-regional or national level institutions to provide locally-appropriate capacity building for ICT strategy, policy and regulation.

Three distinct types of initiative will be supported:

Lot 1 – actions focusing on research, knowledge-management, knowledge-sharing and learning networks;

Lot 2 – actions involving the ACP Parliamentary Assembly, Parliaments of ACP States, ACP regional parliamentary institutions/bodies, ACP parliamentarians and ACP local government organisations, in initiatives relating to the ICT sector;

Lot 3 – actions with specific highly-targeted expert interventions by international experts or international institutions, designed to address specific, complex policy and regulatory issues of urgent importance to one or more countries.

The deadline for receiving proposals is the 16th of September.

The guidelines and application form for submitting a proposal are available through the websites of the [ACP Secretariat](#).

Key News: CKLN Signs EU Financing Agreement for

C@ribNET

The Caribbean Knowledge and Learning Network (CKLN) signed a financing agreement of €10 million with the European Union for C@ribNET, to support the second phase of the C@ribNET project which involves the procurement and implementation of the regional high-speed, fibre optic network.

Ken Sylvester, chief executive officer, CKLN mentioned that these funds will supplement what CKLN received earlier this year from the IDB to conduct infrastructural assessments for the implementation of the C@ribNET project in CARIFORUM countries. "This second component of work will include the provision of network equipment, network links, network engineering and operations," he explained. Commenting on a significant aspect under this component of funding, Sylvester mentioned that the project is expected to realise a significant level of self sustainability at the end of five years of implementation. "This funding also goes towards the development of a sustainability business plan. This business plan will provide the relevant details including minimum conditions for sustainability using the model from a counterpart network, CLARA, setup for Latin America."

The aim of the C@ribNET project is to coordinate and harmonise activities among and within CARIFORUM countries by capitalising on opportunities offered by ICT to achieve common objectives through e-learning, e-inclusion and research. The project will provide social bandwidth to education, government, health and other public institutions in the region, facilitating exchange and establishment of joint research networks.

"When completed, C@ribNET will be interconnected to other global research and education networks," he said. "CKLN is confident that what has been promised can be delivered. We are committed to facilitating the move towards digital inclusion for the Caribbean region."

For more info please visit: www.ckln.org

Next Events

22 October: WINDS-LA Workshop in the eChallenge Conference in Stockholm

WINDS will be organizing a workshop focusing on EU-LA cooperation in ICT research, with the participation of some key EU-LA projects funded by the European Commission, such as BELIEF II, BEACON, BRASIL, SALA+, SAMBA, SOLAR-ICT. The projects will present their results and discuss how to reach a stronger impact by joining efforts.

25-27 November: ICT Lyon 2008

During the ICT event, WINDS-Caribe will be promoting Caribbean ICT research excellence through the "**Latin America ICT Gateway**" stand; furthermore on the 26 of November, a dedicated **Networking Session** will be organised to facilitate the contacts and enhance networking activities between LA and Caribbean partners and the European counterpart.

11 December 2008: WINDS-Caribe Conference in Fort de France, Martinique

The first WINDS-Caribe Conference will take place in Martinique on the 11th of December. The event will aim at gathering ICT researchers and research stakeholders from the whole French-speaking Caribbean sub-region, in order to present the possibilities offered by FP7 and to facilitate aggregation and networking of researchers around potential areas of collaboration with Europe. The Conference is organised under the coordination of the WINDS-Caribe local partner, RIVELLO, for more information please contact Mr. Olivier Moreau, o.moreau@rivelo.net.

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